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Q<sup>2</sup>  
am4  
the present preferred embodiment of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout--

Page 9, line 20, after "computer" insert <sup>NE</sup> --,--; and delete "as being";  
line 21, after "product" insert --,--.

Page 23, line 5, change "25" to --28--.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

Group 2700

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B<sub>3</sub>  
1. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer[related product user] implemented management [and service] system, which manages registration [a user] of [software and hardware as a] computer-related products, [and provides the user with an appropriate service,] comprising:

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a user information general management means, [provided on a system manager side, for] generally managing user registration information and using status information transmitted from a user of the computer-related product[ ]; and

6  
a user registration/reference means [, provided on a] that interfaces with a user [side] of the computer-related [product, for] products notifying said user information general management means of the user registration information and the using status information at a request of the user who [receives] uses a [service according] computer-related product related to the user registration information and the using status information.

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2. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim [2] 1, wherein  
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said user registration/reference means requests at a request from the user said user  
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information general management means to provide new information about the  
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computer-related product from a vendor [side] of the computer-related product.

1 3. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim [2] 1, wherein  
2 [said] the computer-related product is a software product, and said user  
3 registration/reference means is [commonly provided for, and as part of,] common to each  
4 of a plurality of software products; [and]  
5 when any [software product] of the plurality of [the] software products is installed by  
6 a user, the user registration/reference means [as part of the any software product are] is  
7 also installed; and  
8 [thereafter] after installation, said user registration/reference means issues a  
9 notification about the user registration information and using status information for the  
10 plurality of software products which are [included in the software products] installed, and  
11 [realizes] submits a request for new information about the software product.

1 4. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim [2] 1, wherein  
2 said user registration information comprises:  
3 personal information about each user [containing]  
4 including an identification number of each user; and  
5 registration information containing a type of information  
6 requested by the user about a computer related product; and  
7 said user information general management means extracts the new information  
8 depending on information extraction condition containing a requested information type in  
9 the registration information at a request for new information about a computer-related  
10 product from said user registration/reference means, and transmits the new information to  
11 said user registration/reference means.

1 5. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim [2] 1, wherein  
2 [said] the computer-related product is a software product and [said] the using status  
3 information contains the number of times [of starting up of] the software product was

4 started; and

5 said user information general management means transmits new information about  
6 the software product to said user registration/reference means depending on [notified  
7 contents about] the number of times [of starting up of] the software product was started.

1 6. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim [2] 1, wherein  
2 [said] the computer-related product is a software product and [said] the using status  
3 information contains the number of times [of starting up of] the software product was  
4 started; and

5 said user registration/reference means requests said user information general  
6 management means to provide new information about the software product when the  
7 number of times [of starting up of] the software product was started has reached a  
8 predetermined value [predetermined for a software product].

1 7. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim [2] 1, further comprising [on  
2 a vendor side of said computer-related product]:

3 a vendor registration/reference means for obtaining the user registration information  
4 and the using status information [provided for] from said user information general  
5 management means, and notifying said user information general management means of  
6 new information about the computer-related product.

1 8. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 7, wherein  
2 [said] the user registration information contains a type of information, requested by  
3 a user, about a computer-related product;

4 said vendor registration/reference means specifies a type of new information when  
5 [the] new information about the computer-related product is [notified of] available; and  
6 said user information general management means compares the type of information

7 requested by the user with the type specified by the vendor registration/reference means,  
8 and when both types coincide, transmits the new information to said user  
9 registration/reference means at a request from said user registration/reference means  
10 when the requested information is available.

1 9. (ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 8, wherein  
2 one type of said information refers to information about a linking operation with a  
3 computer-related product provided by another vendor.

4 10. (ONCE AMENDED) A management apparatus which manages user  
5 information about a computer-related product [provided] used by a user terminal connected  
6 through a network, comprising:

7 a user information general management means for managing using status  
8 information provided by the user terminal about a product [owned] used by a user;

9 a product information management means for managing product information  
10 provided by a vendor of the computer-related product; and

11 a product information notification means for referring to a product [owned] used by  
12 each user managed by said user information general management means [at a product  
information reference request from the user terminal,] and for providing product information  
managed by said product information management means about a product [owned] used  
by a user.

1 11. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium [used to direct]  
2 encoded with software to cause a computer to perform the [functions] actions of:

3 managing using status information provided by [the] a user terminal about a product  
4 [owned] used by a user;

5 managing product information provided by [the] a computer-related product vendor;

6 and

7 referring to the using status information [a product owned by each user managed  
8 by said using status information managing function at a product information reference  
9 request from the user terminal,] and providing product information [managed by said  
10 product information managing function] about [a] the product [owned] used by a user at a  
11 product information request from the user terminal.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) A user terminal apparatus[, provided at a user side of a  
computer-related product, for receiving an appropriate service from a vendor,] comprising:

1 a user information notification means for notifying an external unit of user  
2 registration information and using status information about the computer-related product;

3 and

4 a product information reference means for requesting an external unit for new  
5 information about the computer-related product from a computer-related product vendor.

6 13. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium [used to direct]  
7 encoded with software for causing a computer to perform the [functions] actions of:

8 notifying an external unit of user registration information and using status  
9 information about [the] a computer-related product used by a user; and

10 requesting an external unit for new information about the computer-related product  
11 from a vendor of the computer related product [vendor].

12 14. (ONCE AMENDED) A vendor terminal apparatus[, provided at a vendor side  
13 of a computer-related product, for providing an appropriate service for a user,] comprising:

14 a user information reference means for obtaining, from an external unit, user  
15 registration information and using status information transmitted from a user of [the] a  
16 computer-related product; and

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a product information notification means for notifying an external unit of new information about the computer-related product.

15. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium [used to direct] encoded with software to cause a computer to perform the [functions] actions of:  
obtaining, from an external unit, user registration information and using status information transmitted from a user of [the] a computer-related product; and  
notifying an external unit of new information about the computer-related product.

Please ~~ADD~~ the following NEW claims:

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--16. (NEW) A computer implemented management system, which manages registration of computer-related products, comprising:

a user information general management module generally managing user registration information and using status information transmitted from a user of the computer-related product; and

a user registration/reference module that interfaces with a user of the computer-related products notifying said user information general management module of the user registration information and the using status information at a request of the user who uses a computer-related product related to the user registration information and the using status information.

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17. (NEW) The system according to claim 16, wherein  
the computer-related product is a software product, and said user registration/reference module is common to each of a plurality of software products;  
when any of the plurality of software products is installed by a user, the user registration/reference module is also installed; and

6 after installation, said user registration/reference means issues a notification about  
7 the user registration information and using status information for the plurality of software  
8 products which are installed, and submits a request for new information about the software  
product.

18. (NEW) A user registration center managing and distributing information  
provided by both a user and a vendor comprising:

a receiving module receiving a product information from the vendor;

a user information module receiving a user information including using status from  
the user;

a database storing the product information and the user information; and

a distributing module distributing, from the database, user information to the vendor  
and product information to the user depending on the user information data.

19. (NEW) A method of managing and distributing information provided by both  
a user and a vendor comprising:

receiving product information from the vendor;

receiving user information from the user;

storing the product information and user information in a database;

managing the product information and the user information in the database; and

distributing the product information to the user upon a request from the user.

20. (NEW) The product information distributed to the user as claimed in claims  
18 and 19, wherein said product information distributed to the user includes a plurality of  
product information correlating to products used by the user as indicated by the user  
information.--